

## LITERARY ITEMS.

**Mrs. L. M. Child** has a new work nearly ready, entitled "A Romance of the Republic," which *Lectures & Tales* will contain during the coming season.

**Dr. Hayes**, the justly celebrated Arctic explorer, whose recent return has added so much interest to the history of Northern regions, has begun to work upon a story of his experiences in the Polar land for "Our Young Folks," which he means to continue through several numbers.

"Wool-Gathering" is the title of a new volume by *Gill Hamilton*, in the press of Ticknor & Fields, to be published this Spring. The author spent several months last year in the West, and "Wool-Gathering" chronicles her experiences while looking after what might be called her immaterial possessions. The volume is said to overflow with the author's gay humor.

It is understood that the late Alexander Smith left a number of unpublished poems and essays, all of which will probably be given to the world in due time. Mr. Smith's recent prose writings added greatly to the fame of his early poems brought him. His "Summer in Italy," "Alfred Huggett's Household," and its little sequel, "Miss Anna McLean," are both with more than an ordinary success both in England and America.

The Paris correspondent of *The Publishers' Circular* writes: "Here is the latest pen-and-ink portrait of M. de Lamartine: 'That old man you see sitting in an arm-chair, sad and silent, is he. So recently as ten years since, when he walked about the streets of Paris, straight, thin, and buoyant, he looked, with his threadbare clothes, like a nobleman on whose fortune had not smiled, and who shielded himself by extreme cleanliness from the results of poverty. Now age has marked him distinctly; every feature, every sinuosity of his epidermis bears age's claws. If the head retains the Grecian smallness which was once admired, it is no longer in proportion with the body; the hands and jaws have shrunk; the eyes have lost their lustre, and that clever mouth, which calmed storms and pacified angry mobs, has lost some of its teeth, and undergone age's deformity. He walks with so much difficulty, that his steps amount to six inches, and his income is set down at \$16,000 a year, of which \$6,000 come from the Sultan (who settled some years since this sum on him), and \$6,000 from his wife's estate. If these statements are true, he is a poor old man, but he is still the same, and the interest on his debt; and it is well he cannot manage to live for less than \$20,000 a year, consequently his income is just \$8,000 a year below his expenses. But it must be noticed that his copyright is not included in this estimate of income.'

It is said that Mr. Joseph Parkes, who died a few years ago, was only prevented by death from publishing a life of Sir Philip Francis, in which it would have been shown conclusively that Francis was "Junius."

*The Atheneum* states that the inscription on the tomb of Walter Savage Landor at Florence is disfigured by a blunder to the effect that it is "the last and chief of his efforts and children"; and asks: "Is there no friend of Landor who will amend this error?"

"Memories du Peuple Français" is the name of an important work undertaken by M. Augustin Chauvelain, the third volume of which has now appeared, and which is to extend to eight. It is a sort of series of *tableaux*, in which one may see the development and successive transformations of French society from the times of barbarism to the present day.

The following anecdote of Charles Lamb is recorded in *Macmillan's Magazine*: "It so happened that a lady and her sister came over from Edinburgh one day to see the Lambs at 'Kenfield,' and in the evening Charles saw them part of the way home. He left them at a certain point, and said he should go back straight to Mary. To Mary, however, he did not go straight back, but went into a roadside tavern, and waited for some hours. He sat down at his refreshment near two men, who like him were drinking beer or spirits, and who were talking with their host. He knew not, nor they him. Nothing more passed for the time. Lamb paid his reckoning, and went away. A horrible murder had been perpetrated at Edmonton that very day. A man had been killed and robbed, and it was known that the murderer, whom Lamb had seen, were the murderers! Very soon after he had quitted their society they were arrested on the charge, and the next morning Lamb himself was apprehended, and sent to prison. It was a terrible case, of course, very exciting, and he was at a remarkable one, and it is now for the first time put forward, as we had it from the lips of one of the ladies whom he escorted home on that eventful evening."

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